

Iowa Department of Public Health 2004 Legislative Priorities

To advance the Iowa Department of Public Health's mission "to promote and protect the health of Iowans" and to meet the goals of *Healthy Iowans 2010* the department supports the following legislative priorities.

Reduce Tobacco Use -- IDPH supports legislation to eliminate the public's exposure to secondhand smoke, and to increase the excise tax on tobacco products to reduce tobacco use, tobacco-related death and disease, and to support the state tobacco use and prevention and control program.

Promote Healthful Living -- IDPH supports legislation that assists Iowans in making healthful choices.

Strengthen Public Health Infrastructure -- IDPH supports legislation to provide adequate funding to public health programs to perform those services recognized as "Essential Services of Public Health" by the National Public Health Performance Standards Program.

Improve Health Care Access and Affordability -- IDPH supports legislation that promotes access to health care for all Iowans, especially through prevention and primary care. This includes assuring a sustainable, competent, and diverse health workforce.

Provide Adequate Mental Health and Substance Abuse Insurance -- IDPH supports legislation for coverage of mental health and substance abuse evidence based diagnosis and treatment through health insurance plans.

Strengthen Emergency Preparedness -- IDPH supports legislation that strengthens the development and implementation of an integrated system of public health and medical services in preparedness for and response to disasters, terrorism incidents, outbreaks of infectious disease and other public health emergencies.

Improve Community Living Options for Iowans with Disabilities - IDPH supports legislation that improves community living support services for individuals with disabilities and long-term illnesses in Iowa.

Reduce the Public Health Impact of Unintentional Injuries -- IDPH supports legislation that promotes injury prevention initiatives.

Healthy Environment -- IDPH supports legislation that helps to create or sustain a healthy indoor and outdoor environment for all Iowans.